Exorbitant Prices of Medicines

1417. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2723 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the availability of medicines has become at highly exorbitant prices after the announcement of DPCO, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has no machinery to monitor the price increases of all medicines;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is hardly aware of increase of prices of 5 per cent medicines whereas the prices of more than 80 per cent medicines have gone up;

(d) the names of medicines both, controlled and decontrolled the prices of which have increased by more than 25 per cent after the announcement of DPCO, 1987 alongwith their earlier prices, the increased price and the percentage increase in each case upto 15th April, 1988; and

(e) if so, the names of medicines which have been brought back under price control?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (e) As per the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987, the manufacturers of decontrolled formulations are free to revise the prices. However, Government is keeping a watch and intervenes, wherever necessary.

(b) and (c) A monitoring cell is functioning to monitor the price increases of medicines.

(d) The required details are quite voluminous and are not readily available. The time and effort required for collection of these will not commensurate with the result likely to be achieved.

Notification under Para 28 of DPCO, 1979

1418. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2716 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recovery proceedings under para 7(2) of DPCO, 1979 can only be dropped after a notified order under para 28 of DPCO, 1979;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has issued orders in the official gazette for dropping the recovery proceedings against HAL and IDPL; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increased Drug Prices

1419. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2709 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 1988 and state:

(a) the names of companies which have increased the prices of their generic name products based on Aminophylline, Quinidine Sulphate, Analgin, Sulphadimidine and other drugs, which have come to the notice of his Ministry alongwith earlier price, increased price and percentage increase in each case;

(b) whether the producers of these bulk drugs have increased the prices after the announcement of DPCO, 1987;

(c) what are the names of the producers of each drug alongwith production of each during the last three years, year-wise; and